

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 38

1400 Hours December 14, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

The next Situation Report will be 21 December 2005 at 1400 Hours information should be submitted to the VEOC by 1100 Hours. Conference Calls are on an as needed basis.

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Forecast: ***Wednesday 14 December*** – Cloudy, high temperatures upper 30s, light winds. Wednesday night – 90% chance of rain, low temperatures mid 30's. ***Thursday 15 December*** – Rain, high temperatures upper 30s to low 40s, southeast winds 5 MPH, chance of precipitation 100%. Thursday night – Chance of rain/snow mixture, low temperatures upper 20s, southwest winds 5 to 10 MPH, chance of precipitation 30%. ***Friday 16 December*** – Mostly cloudy, high temperatures mid to upper 30s, west winds 10 to 15 MPH. Friday night – Partly cloudy, low temperatures in the low 20s.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is available as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Health & Medical: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
VDH continues monitoring absenteeism in Big Stone Gap schools. No new cases of chickenpox reported and VDH has ended surveillance. Shelter supplies have been removed from the shelter which was located at East Stone Baptist Church.

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security: Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)
The VNG continues the blivet support mission. VNG has not pumped water from Powell River Cave #1 since 5 December. ***Two blivets remain at Bullitt Park and***

nine blivets have been removed. Ten soldiers remain on mission. Coordinated blivet removal schedule is as follows:

Bullitt Park (2)	January 15, 2006
Shelter-East Stone Gap (1)	<i>Blivets Removed</i>
Powell Valley Schools (3)	<i>Blivets Removed</i>
DMME and MECC (1)	<i>Blivets Removed</i>
Nursing Home (1)	<i>Blivets Removed</i>
Hospital (1)	<i>Blivets Removed</i>
Powell Cave Number 1 (2)	<i>Blivets Removed</i>

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ continues to monitor the town of Big Stone Gap water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area with plans to change the messages on the boards every three days so that members of the community do not become complacent. A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water to Wallen's Ridge.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Current Powell River stream flow is ***35 cubic feet per second (had been over 60 cfs during recent rains and as low as 15 cfs during the drought. The water treatment plant produced 725,000 gallons of water on 12 December. All water storage tanks are full. No report has been received on recent efforts to reduce system water losses.*** Outdoor pumping operations have been winterized using shelters with heat to protect from freezing and all systems are being monitored 24/7. ***Vendor has delivered electric pump that was purchased by Big Stone Gap for cave pumping operations, but it has not been installed. Schools, hospital, and MECC are back on town's water supply, however the full impact on amounts consumed has not been determined due to school closures. On 8 December Wise County Board of Supervisors lifted the burn ban based on a recommendation from the Department of Forestry. The town of Big Stone Gap has not lifted their burn ban.***

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